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NEW SERIES No. 29.

SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS

OF THE OFFICE OF THE

FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS, PUNJAB.

Published by Authority.

No. 54.

CONTENTS.

No. LXXXIII.—Assessment of certain colony villages on the Dangali and other extensions and of certain proprietary villages on the Lower Chenab Canal.

15581

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Lahore:
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No. 215, dated 16th June 1913.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel P. S. M. BURLTON, I. A., Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur,
To—The Commissioner, Multan Division.

I HAVE the honour to forward for orders of the Financial Commissioner letter No. 120, dated 4th June 1913, from Mr. B. H. Dobson, Settlement Officer, Lyallpur.

2. There remain for assessment in this district, apart from the Trans-Ravi portion transferred from the Montgomery District on 1st April 1913, commanded by the Upper Chenab Canal as follows:—

			No. of villages.	*New assessment due.*
Dangali	Extension	...	14	Kharif 1916
Nahra	"	...	16	" 1913
Nupewala	"	...	4	" 1913
Bahlak	"	...	32	" 1914
Killianwala	"	...	20	" 1912
Bhangu	"	...	30	" 1915
Proprietary villages		...	59	" 1914
Colony chaks allotted subsequently to the assessment of the circles in which they are situated—Mauza Kuhl, 321 G.B., 372 G.B., 405 J.B.			4	not settled.

3. Mr. Dobson's proposals on which orders are solicited are—

Whether an assessment report is to be dispensed with or not. He advocates the former, basing his argument on an expression to this effect by the Hon'ble Mr. Fenton, Financial Commissioner, and the fact that it is impossible for him to bring into one harmonious report, the various geographical and administrative features, which are found in the tracts to be assessed, I agree with him for the reasons given in paragraph 3 of his letter that he might proceed forthwith to announce new rates, and submit detailed village assessment statements to your office as heretofore.

As regards the rates to be imposed, I consider the Settlement Officer has made out a good case for reduction with reference to the rates previously approved for the adjoining tracts. The soil is inferior, the water-supply much more restricted, and it has been reduced from 75 per cent. to 50 per cent. permissible area for irrigation, whilst throughout the waste there is one prevailing feature the cultivators are very much inferior to that of the general run of Colonists, consisting of Camel grantees, holding half square, Montgomery Hitharis, Bar Nomads in the Trans-Ravi Dangali and Killianwala Tract, and Jhang Hitharis, miscellaneous grantees (Christian pensioners and others) in the Bhangu Tract. On these grounds the Settlement Officer proposes the following schedule of nahri rates, fluctuating per acre sown—

					Rs.	A.	P.
Class I	...	...	...	...	4	0	0
" II	...	...	...	...	3	8	0
" III	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
" IV	...	...	...	...	2	8	0
" V	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
" VI	...	...	...	...	1	8	0

I do not feel that I have sufficient experience of the district to criticise in detail the proposed rates, and it is therefore with diffidence, I would suggest for consideration, as Mr. Dobson's own arguments, that there should be no Rs. 4 rate at all, and the all round rate should not be higher than Rs. 2-8-0. The tracts are poor ones, the soil is not first class, the water-supply limited, and the cultivators generally a poor lot.

4. As to the dates from which the assessment should be levied, I agree with Mr. Dobson's proposals, which summarized are, that when the new rates are announced, which

will be shortly if Government approve of Mr. Dobson's proposals to dispense with an assessment report, it should be announced that the date will be fixed hereafter, and to take effect as follows:—

Killianwala ... ... Nupewala ... ... Nahra	Extensions	...	Kharif 1913
If he can get this out in time 4 Colony chaks Bahlak extension proprietary village	"	...	" 1914
Bhangu	"	...	" 1915
Dangali	"	...	" 1916

5. I also concur with Mr. Dobson, as to his proposals for the 59 proprietary villages. The proposed fluctuating Nahri rates subject to my suggested reductions are suitable for all land irrigated from the Lower Chenab Canal, and the other land charged the fluctuating rates as stated in paragraph 8 of Mr. Dobson's letter. To ensure uniformity all the areas will therefore be under fluctuating assessment, and as the water-supply from the Degh Nala is variable, and may even be *nil* in future years, the desirability of a fluctuating assessment is very pronounced. The assessment, in the light of Mr. Dobson's remarks will have to be done by the Revenue staff, but this will not present any difficulty.

I agree as to the lift rates to be imposed, the conditions connected with the Degh Nala are peculiar and often entail on the cultivation abnormal expense and loss.

6. In conclusion, I assume that Mr. Dobson will be required to submit the usual settlement report.

No. 120, dated Lyallpur, 4th June 1913.

From—B. H. Dobson, Esquire, I.C.S., Settlement Officer, Lyallpur,

To—The Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur.

I have the honour to ask for the orders of Government on certain matters concerning the work remaining to be done in connection with this Settlement.

2. With the completion of the Rakh Branch assessment now in progress the principal circles will have been disposed of. There remain the so-called "Extensions," 59 proprietary villages and 4 Colony chaks, whose allotment was completed subsequently to the assessment of the circles in which they are situated. The situation of these areas, their size and the dates fixed for the new assessment will appear from the map,* which accompanies this letter and from the following table:—

		No. of villages.	*New assessment due.*
Dangali	Extension	14	Kharif 1916
Nahra	"	16	" 1913
Nupewala	"	4	" 1913
Bahlak	"	32	" 1914
Killianwala	"	20	" 1912
Bhangu	"	30	" 1915
Proprietary villages		59	" 1914
Colony chaks allotted subsequently to the assessment of the circles in which they are situated—Mauza Kuhl, 321 G. B., 372 G. B., 405 J. B.		4	not settled.

These dates were fixed at various times, for the Dangali and Bhangu Extensions in letter No 104 Rev., dated 4th July 1910, from the Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioners, for the proprietary villages in letter No 488-S. (Rev.), dated 8th June 1910, from the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioners, for the Nahra, Nupewala, Bahlak and Killianwala Extensions in letter No. 98 (Rev. and Agri—Irrgn.), dated 14th August 1907, from the Under-Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, to the Senior Secretary to Financial Commissioners.

3. The assessment of these mauzas could be completed without difficulty in the course of the next cold weather, if, in accordance with the view expressed by Mr. Fenton during his recent tour in the Colony, further assessment reports were dispensed with. Apart from the delay involved in the preparation of such reports, the mauzas do not form a homogeneous area or even a geographical and administrative division. The extensions, except for the Bhangu, lie alongside of the Gugera Branch, Circle II, it is true, though at intervals from each other, but the Bhangu Extension is at the tail of the Jhang Branch and touches that district, while the 59 proprietary villages are scattered sporadically along the Ravi, the Degh Nala, and

* Not printed.

the Multan border. I would propose, therefore, with the permission of Government, to announce forthwith the rates and the dates, from which they are to have effect, afterwards submitting the detailed village assessment statements to the Commissioner for sanction in the manner adopted in this Settlement hitherto.

4. Should this proposal be sanctioned, I request that I may be favoured with directions as to the rates to be imposed. In paragraph 3 of his review on the Gugera Branch, Circle II report, Mr. Fenton admitted the analogy between the areas now under discussion and that circle. But the present circle would in fact suffer by any such comparison. Concession rates have obtained here for less than 10 years. Along the Ravi grantees are largely camel men, Montgomery Hitharis, immigrants from Mianwali and Bar nomads. The Bhangu Branch is allotted to a mixed company, partly the survival of the fittest from a once extensive allotment to Gujrat and Lahore grantees, partly Jhang Hitharis, partly miscellaneous grantees, Christian pensioners and others. Cultivation is considerably below the standard of all the other circles. Soil is singularly unequal and seldom high class. On the Bahlak Branch the increase of *kallar* has been so persistant as to necessitate special concessions and preventive operation. The Bhangu Extension was described by Mr. deMontmorency in his No. 43-S, dated 21st April 1910, to the address of the Settlement Commissioner. Even the best middle Punjab tenantry have failed to make a success of it owing to the extent of the admixture of sand and *kallar* in the soil.

Of the water-supply in general it is not possible to speak very favourably either. It is notorious that the Gugera Branch silts up for reasons still somewhat obscure and has so far worked less efficiently than the Jhang or Rakh Branches. The effect, as was demonstrated in the Gugera Branch II assessment report, is chronic distress at the tails of most distributaries. This is especially noticeable in all the Gugera Branch Extensions, while the Bhangu Branch is no better. A further consideration, which concerns all the proprietary villages, is the reduction of the permissible area for irrigation, elsewhere 75 per cent. to 50 per cent. The grounds for this somewhat arbitrary decision were apparently a desire to give preferential treatment to Crown waste, which admitted of closer settlement, and so establish the earning capacity of the canal on a more secure footing, and a reluctance to place too liberal a supply of water at the disposal of cultivators without experience in the use of it. As long as there are Colony villages still on the *kharaba* list it is unlikely that this inequality in the treatment of old and new villages will be adjusted. It is therefore a factor of no little importance in estimating the capacity of these mauzas in the matter of land revenue.

5. The foregoing observations are intended to show that the areas under discussion, so far from comparing with the Rakh Branch, where high rates have with good reason recently been imposed, are not equal even to Gugera Branch, Circle II, and the assessment should consequently, to use Mr. Fenton's phrase in paragraph 8 of the Gugera Branch II review, "be subject to limitations with reference to the rates previously approved for the adjoining tract." The quality of the soil, inferiority of water supply, and class of grantee support this contention. To these considerations must be added the small size of the grants. On the Dangali Extension there are some *raises*, who hold large grants on camel breeding terms and the Bhangu holdings are normal, but the rest have generally only half square or even less for on the Killianwala Extension quarter square grants are numerous. I would therefore propose the following schedule of *nahri* rates, fluctuating per acre sown :—

					Rs.	A.	P.
Class	I	...	...	...	4	0	0
,,	II	...	...	...	3	8	0
,,	III	...	...	...	3	0	0
,,	IV	...	...	...	2	8	0
,,	V	...	...	...	2	0	0
,,	VI	...	...	...	1	8	0

Should Government accept this schedule, but desire to adopt an all round rate, which would suitably reflect the actual relation of this circle to those already assessed (Rakh Branch excepted) I would suggest Rs. 3 as an appropriate rate.

6. I proceed to discuss the dates, from which the new assessment should be levied It is somewhat doubtful whether it is legally necessary to stand by those already fixed. The purpose of the orders so fixing them was to determine, when *malikana* should be raised and owners' rate imposed. Entries were made accordingly in the *Jamabandis* and the statements of conditions filed in each tenancy register. Clause 13 of the latter reads as follows :—

The tenant shall pay when due in respect of the said lands or any part thereof —

(1) all land revenue assessments, owners' rate, occupiers' rate, cesses or other charges imposed by competent authority under any law for the time being in force ;

(2) malikana at such rate or rates as may from time to time be fixed by the Punjab Government, and ;

(3) a rate not exceeding Rs. 2 per acre of the said lands, to be levied once only, after the second crop has been reaped from tenancy in composition for the cost of survey demarcation and water-courses mentioned in clause 10 of this statement : Provided that the Deputy Commissioner may direct that such rate be paid in two instalments.

All payments mentioned in this clause shall be made to such persons and at such times and places as the Deputy Commissioner shall from time to time appoint :

Provided that the Local Government shall remit (*a*) the whole demand on account of owners' rate until the day of , and (*b*) the whole demand on account of land revenue, occupiers' rates, malikana and cesses during the first year and one-half of the demand under the aforesaid heads during the second year, after " the date of commencement of the tenancy ".

So far as the extension chaks are concerned, there is nothing in these words or in the *jamabandi* entries to prevent an enhancement of the land revenue at any time, which may commend itself to Government and the chaks themselves are prosperous enough to be able to meet the new revenue charges at once without waiting for the due dates, assuming of course that the proposed rates are not exceeded. But it is difficult to see how malikana could be enhanced prior to the date recorded in the *jamabandi* and in regard to the land revenue also it would savour of injustice not to follow the course adopted for previous circles and allow the full period of concession rates to elapse. The proprietary villages appear to have been well treated in obtaining an extension till *Kharif* 1914 of the current assessment, which is only Re. 1-2-2⅗ per acre. The old assessment expired in 1904 and as no definite announcement seems to have been made as to the currency of the present arrangements they could apparently, like the extension assessments, be revised, if necessary, prior to *Kharif* 1914.

But whatever the legal position, the simplest arrangement would be to announce the new rates at once with the proviso that they are not to take effect until the dates fixed by Government, and this is the proposal I have to make. The 4 Colony chaks (Mauza Kuhl 321 G. B., 372 G. B., and 405 J. B.) might have their new assessment imposed with effect from *Kharif* 1914. The dates would therefore be as follows :—

Killianwala Nupewala Nahra	... Extensions ...	Kharif 1913.
Bahlak Extension Proprietary villages 4 Colony chaks	... ...	„ 1914.
Bhangu Extension ...	... ...	„ 1915.
Dangali „ ...	... ...	„ 1916.

7. The schedule of rates proposed in paragraph 5 above was intended to apply to the 59 proprietary villages as well as to the Colony chaks. The former are independent of the villages recently transferred from Montgomery by *Gazette* Notifications Nos. 222 and 223, dated 11th March 1913, concerning which orders were passed in letter No. 2615, dated 10th April 1913, from the Junior Secretary to the Financial Commissioners excluding the mauzas from the scope of this Settlement.

The 59 proprietary villages now to be dealt with are at present assessed variously, and no less than 4 systems prevail. The situation may be summarized as follows :—

		No. of Mauzas.
1.	Fluctuating land revenue assessed wholly by Irrigation Department	11
2.	Fluctuating land revenue, assessed partly by Revenue Department and partly by Irrigation Department	24
3.	Fluctuating land revenue assessed wholly by Revenue Department	8
4.	Fluctuating land revenue assessed by Revenue Department and fixed assessment	5
5.	Fixed assessment	11

Classes 1 and 2 contain the majority of mauzas, those which are partly or wholly irrigated from the Lower Chenab Canal. The system of assessment for class 2 mauzas would appear at first sight to be susceptible of amendment. There are obvious reasons why a dual system in a single mauza is undesirable. The reason is that the Irrigation Department limit their operations to lands within the irrigation boundary and are not desirous of enlarging them. In reply to an enquiry, whether the Irrigation Department could not assess each whole sown area of mauzas irrigated by them in part only, the Superintending Engineer writes as follows :—*The hadd abpashi* (irrigation boundary) defines the limits of irrigation of each channel and is usually a drainage line, which it is essential to maintain. To extend the responsibilities

of patwaris in assessment work will add indefinitely to their present charge. It will, moreover, require a considerable addition to the present patwari staff."

This attitude is reasonable enough, as the assessment of land revenue is an extraneous duty, any addition to which the Irrigation Department can hardly be expected to undertake with enthusiasm. I would therefore propose no alteration in existing conditions, so far as this particular matter is concerned. Mauzas under the 3rd, 4th and 5th heads receive no canal irrigation. The existence of the anomalous class 3rd and 4th mauzas is explained in letter No. 433, dated 24th June 1908, from the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioners, to the Secretary to Government. By inadvertence the fluctuating consolidated rate, sanctioned for mauzas partially irrigated from the Lower Chenab Canal, was introduced into villages wholly outside the irrigation boundary. Sanction was, however, accorded to the change, provided that any such village preferring to retain its present system should be permitted to do so.

8. The proposed fluctuating *nahri* rates are suitable for all land irrigated from the Lower Chenab Canal. Other land might be charged the fluctuating rates already sanctioned for this Settlement according to their class, *i.e.*—

					Rs.	A.	P.
Chahi	...	...	...	...	1	4	0
Sailab	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Barani	...	...	...	...	0	12	0

I would abolish all fixed assessments. The total sum so levied at present is not more than Rs. 1,343 and the situation is one obviously suited to the imposition of a system of fluctuating assessments, which has the merit of uniformity with that obtaining in canal irrigated mauzas. The mauzas outside the irrigation boundary are situated for the most part on the Degh Nala and benefit from flood water, which is of course a very uncertain matter. I am not aware of the precise consequences to these mauzas anticipated from the proposed diversion of the Degh: but it would certainly appear that the project will render them even less suited to a fixed assessment than they are at present. The inhabitants have, moreover, been drawn away by the opening up of neighbouring Colony tracts: more still will migrate when the Upper Chenab reaches their vicinity. At the same time Government will profit by a system of fluctuation; because when flood water is plentiful *sailab* cultivation is both extensive and successful. It must be admitted that the retention of the Revenue Department as an assessing agency in these mauzas is an unfortunate, if unavoidable, necessity. But since the Canal Department are unwilling to operate outside the irrigation boundaries, no other course is possible. The area is, moreover, small and the work will offer no difficulty. I would propose therefore that the Revenue Department should continue to assess the revenue on all land outside the irrigation boundary.

9. The duration of the settlement would normally be 10 years. But the assessment would in this case expire at 4 different dates—a result which will probably be found somewhat embarrassing by those, who come to revise it. The assessments on the previous circles will, it is true, unfortunately, not expire simultaneously: but an unnecessary extension of the principle involved is to be avoided. For the mauzas under discussion I would therefore propose the following periods:—

				Years.
Killianwala, Nupewala, Nahra	...	...	...	10
Bahlak, Proprietary villages	...	...	...	9
Bhangu ...	...	...	...	8
Dangali ...	...	...	...	7

The assessment on mauzas 405 J. B. and 372 G. B. should be subject to revision in Rabi 1921 and that on mauza 321 G. B. and Kuhl in Rabi 1922.

The assessment on the whole circle will thus expire simultaneously, except for the 4 Colony mauzas, which have been treated on the analogy of the circles, to which they belong geographically.

10. Certain miscellaneous matters remain for discussion.

Malikana would be 6 annas per rupee of land revenue, with a limit of annas 12 per acre assessed. In accordance with the orders on the Gugera II Assessment Report (paragraph 5 of letter No. 50, Rev. and Agri.—Rev., from the Revenue Secretary to Government) it should be waived in the case of camel grantees, who occupy a considerable area in these mauzas, so long as the conditions are maintained.

In paragraph 8 above, I proposed rates for *chahi*, *sailab* and *barani* cultivation. In addition a rate is required for lift irrigation from the Degh Nala and tanks or Jhils. This is a somewhat expensive process as the water lies 15-20 feet below the surface in the cold weather.

Nahri-jhallari rates have been half flow rates hitherto : if this rate is retained here also, I would suggest an *abi* rate for this class of cultivation of 12 annas, *i.e.*, half the lowest *nahri* rate proposed. This may seem lenient: but the form of cultivation is, unlike *chahi*, very variable: it depends on the quantity of water in the channel, concerning which uncertainty must always prevail. The *jhallars* too are often injured by flood water and the necessity of repairing them adds to the cost of crop production.

I request also that I may be favoured with instructions as to whether I should compile a Settlement Report when the work of assessment is finished.

Endorsement by the Commissioner, Multan Division.

No. 4363, dated Multan, 30th June and 1st July 1913.

COPY of Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur's letter No. 215, dated the 16th June 1913, with a copy of its enclosures, forwarded to H. A. Smith, Esquire, I.C.S., Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioners, Punjab, for favour of obtaining the orders of the Financial Commissioner.

No. 490 S., dated Simla, 26th September 1913.

From—H. A. SMITH, Esquire, Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioners, Punjab,
To—The Commissioner, Multan Division.

The Hon'ble Mr. M. W. FENTON, I.C. S.

Sub-head 91.
File No. 660.

IN reply to your endorsement No. 4363, dated 1st July 1913, forwarding Mr. Dobson's proposals for assessment of the remaining areas now left for assessment on the Lower Chenab Canal, I am directed to convey the following orders of the Financial Commissioner which are issued after reference to Government.

2. No regular assessment report need be written by the Settlement Officer, nor will it be necessary to submit any of the usual preliminary compilations—prices report, produce estimate, etc, as Mr. Dobson has both from his records and his personal knowledge ample material on which to frame his village assessments.

3. The method of assessment will be simply to include each village according to its quality in one or other of the sanctioned classes of the adjoining assessment circles, *i.e*, the Gugera II Circle or the Jhang III Circle, as the case may be. Mr. Dobson who by this time should be an expert in appraising the relative merits of Colony villages can be trusted to make an appropriate classification. In every case the Settlement Officer should allow the initial ten years concession period to expire before collecting the new rates which might, however, be announced in all cases. It should, however, be provided that the new term of Settlement will be the same as for the adjoining assessment circle, *viz.*, Gugera II, for most of the area and Jhang III for the Bhangu Branch Extensions.

4. To the method of assessment outlined in paragraph 3 above the Financial Commissioner would make one exception. The area to be assessed includes the large estates of Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram, C.I.E., of 121 squares or about 3,350 acres. (He also has 10 squares near Lyallpur.)

This estate should be assessed as one unit and the assessment should be fixed, though the Settlement Officer should work out alternative fluctuating rates which could be imposed if there is any hitch about the fixed assessment. Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram's land is described in correspondence as "highly fertile". It is not like the ordinary run of land on the "extension". In fact it is not on an extension. The supply of water is unlimited as he has an electric motor lift connected with a supply channel and can take as much water as he requires. He has an agreement with the Irrigation Department entitling him to do this. It is absurd that in such circumstances a patwari should have to go round each season and measure up the crops. The assessment might be fixed for both land revenue and water rates, but the proposed rates should be reported to the Financial Commissioner for approval.

5. As regards the 59 proprietary estates the proposals in paragraphs 7 and 8 of Mr. Dobson's letter No. 120 of 4th June 1913 as to the machinery, methods and rates of assessment are approved.

6. The malikana proposals are approved, pending completion of purchase by the tenants. The orders of Government in paragraph 5 of Punjab Government letter No. 50, dated 6th April 1912, may be taken to cover the exemption from malikana of camel-breeding grantees on the extensions, so long as camel breeding conditions are maintained.

7. The proposals for Lift Irrigation as also those for Chahi, Sailab and Barani cultivation are approved, but the question of lift irrigation in Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram's estate is separate and should be dealt with on the merits.

8. The Settlement Officer should write a Settlement Report for the whole area irrigated by the Lower Chenab Canal and included in the assessment made by Mr. DeMontmorency, Captain Ferrar and himself.

No. 4520, dated Multan, 8th September 1914.

From—C. J. HALLIFAX, Esquire, I.C.S., Commissioner, Multan Division,

To—The Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioners, Punjab,

IN continuation of my letter No. 1888, dated 15th April 1914, I have the honour to forward for the orders of the Financial Commissioners a copy of a letter No. 172, dated 3rd August 1914, with enclosures, from the Settlement Officer regarding the results of the recent assessment of the remaining areas of the Chenab Colony.

2 The report deals with details of assessment left over from the main branch assessments. The villages now in question have been dealt with in the manner already approved elsewhere in the Colony. A comparison between the totals payable as land revenue before and after reassessment is not of any great value as the assessment varies with the cultivation and no account is taken of water rates which the zemindars treat as a portion of their assessment. The main point to consider is the rate at which the new assessment will fall on canal flow cultivation. Making full allowance for the character of the majority of the assessees and for the inferior water-supply and soil of a number of villages the general nahri flow rate, Rs. 3-0-7 per acre in Colony villages and Rs. 2-9-3 in proprietary is moderate. The lighter rate for proprietary villages is justified by the considerations set forth in the Settlement Officer's report. His assessment has, as in other parts of the Colony, been marked by careful attention to detail especially in the differentiation of squares of differing quality. In view of this and the maintenance of field to field kharaba when the water-supply is found to be uncertain and of the application of reduced water rates to villages with inferior soil the assessment is one which has been readily accepted by the people. There is evidence of this in the fewness of the objections and appeals which have been put forward. Only 102 objections were presented to the Setlement Officer and 27 appeals to me. Three appeals were presented by individuals in connexion with their own holdings and out of 177 villages assessed only 24 as shown in the margin appealed against the village assessment. All the appeals have been rejected.

Bhangu Branch	... 8	villages.
Dangali Extension	... 2	"
Bahlak "	... 9	"
Proprietary villages	... 1	"
Nahra Extension	... 2	"
Nupewala Extension	... 1	"
Killianwala "	... 1	"
Total	... 24	

3. It is not necessary for me to refer to the details on which Mr. Dobson asks for orders and I submit for approval his proposals which complete the assessments which he has ably and expeditiously conducted in the Colony.

No. 172, dated 3rd August 1914.

From—R. H. DOBSON, Esquire, I.C.S., Settlement Officer, Lyallpur,

To—The Commissioner, Multan Division.

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with your endorsement No. 6210—75-13, dated 11th October 1913, to the address of the Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur, I have the honour to report the result of my recent assessment of the remaining areas of the Chenab Colony pursuant to the orders of Government. The situation of the areas, their size and the dates fixed for the new assessment appears from the following table :—

—	Number of villages.	District.	New assessment due.
Killianwala Extension	19	Lyallpur ...	Kharif 1913.
Nupewala "	4	" ...	" 1913.
Nahra "	16	" ...	" 1913.
Bahlak "	32	" ...	" 1914.
Proprietary villages	58	" ...	" 1914.
Colony chaks	3	" ...	" 1914.
Bhangu Extension	32	Jhang ...	" 1915.
Dangali "	13	Lyallpur ...	" 1916.
Total ...	177		

The term of the Settlement was in each case to be the same as that of the adjoining Gugera Branch II and Jhang Branch III assessment circles. That is to say according to present arrangements it will expire after *Kharif* 1921 for all the areas except the Bhangu where the date is *Kharif* 1920.

2. The rates sanctioned for land revenue followed the same principle. For facility of reference I quote them below :—

Nahri flow ...	Rs. 4, Rs. 3-4-0, Rs. 3, Rs. 2-12-0, Rs. 2-8-0, Rs. 2, Re. 1-8-0, Rs. 0-12-0, per acre.	For Bhangu Branch.
	Rs. 4, Rs. 3-12-0, Rs. 3-8-0. Rs. 3, Rs. 2-8-0, Rs. 2, Rs. 1-8-0.	Remainder.
Nahri-Jhallari		*Half flow rate.*

	Rs. A. P.
Chahi	1 4 0
Sailab	1 0 0
Abi	0 12 0
Barani	0 12 0

3. *Malikana*, here as elsewhere throughout the Colony, is annas 6 per rupee of land revenue, subject to a maximum of Re. 0-12-0 per acre assessed. In accordance with the orders of Government it will be waived in the case of camel grantees, who occupy a considerable portion of these mauzas, so long as the conditions are maintained. With the general acquisition of proprietary rights *malikana* is now a vanishing quantity. Similarly cesses are to be calculated at the rate of 13⅓ per cent. of the land revenue.

4. Occupiers' rate and owners' rate have no place in this reference. The former is not essentially connected with the land revenue assessment, though collections under this head appear in the Detailed Village Assessment Statements. The latter will be merged in the new land revenue as soon as it is imposed and thus presently cease to exist altogether.

5. In the following tables I show the estimated results of the new assessment taking areas actually assessed by the Canal Department in 1912-13 as the basis of my calculation. I distinguish for reasons which will appear below, between the Colony and proprietary villages.

TABLE A.

Abstract showing Nahri (flow) Rates—Colony Mauzas.

Name of tract.	Total area (Nahri flow) assessed in 1912-13.	Demand at new rates.	Rate per acre.
	Acres.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Killianwala Extension	21,630	64,794 8 0	2 15 11
Nahra "	16,402	52,615 4 0	3 3 4
Nupewala "	3,810	11,776 8 0	3 1 5
Dangali "	11,920	38,793 8 0	3 4 1
Bahlak "	30,527	93,382 8 0	3 0 11
Bhangu "	18,378	52,235 12 0	2 13 6
Mauzas 475, 476, 405, 321, 372, Kuhl ...	3,960	10,408 8 0	2 10 1
Total ...	1,06,627	3,24,006 8 0	3 0 7
Total Lyallpur District ...	87,089	2,69,163 12 0	3 1 5
Total Jhang District ...	19,538	54,842 12 0	2 12 11

TABLE B.

Abstract showing Nahri (flow) Rates—Proprietary Mauzas.

Total nahri area assessed in 1912-13.	Demand at new rates.	Rate per acre.
Acres.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
20,302	52,349 8 0	2 9 3

TABLE C.

Abstract showing details of assessment in Lyallpur District for all classes of cultivation.

Tahsil.	Nature of charge.	Old demand.	New demand.	Increase.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Jaranwala ...	Land revenue ...	21,797 7 9	1,13,646 4 0	91,848 12 3
	Malikana ...	9,360 6 3	16,042 12 6	6,682 6 3
	Cesses ...	8,429 4 3	15,152 13 8	6,723 9 5
	Owners' rate ...	4,147 7 6	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Total ...	43,734 9 9	1,44,841 14 2	1,01,107 4 5
Samundri ...	Land revenue ...	48,637 1 6	2,12,195 4 0	1,63,558 2 6
	Malikana ...	18,850 7 9	30,300 3 0	11,449 11 3
	Cesses ...	15,597 3 2	28 292 11 0	12,695 7 10
	Owners' rate ...	1,007 6 6	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Total ...	84,092 2 11	2,70,788 2 0	1,86,695 15 1
Toba Tek Singh ...	Land revenue ...	2,049 11 0	7,677 0 0	5,627 5 0
	Malikana ...	852 5 6	526 5 0	*Nil.*
	Cesses ...	700 14 7	1,023 9 7	322 11 0
	Owners' rate ...	*Nil.*	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Total ...	3,602 15 1	9,226 14 7	5,623 15 6
	Total of the District ...	1,31,429 11 9	4,24,856 14 9	2,93,427 3 0

TABLE D.

Abstract showing details of assessment in Jhang District for all classes of cultivation.

Tahsil.	Nature of charge.	Old demand.	New demand.	Increase.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Shorkot ...	Land revenue ...	9,280 3 8	52,255 4 0	42,975 0 4
	Malikana ...	5,524 10 6	11,119 6 6	5,594 12 0
	Cesses ...	4,239 15 3	6,967 5 9	2,727 6 6
	Owners' rate ...	236 10 9	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Total ...	19,281 8 2	70,342 0 3	51,060 8 1
Jhang ...	Land revenue ...	595 7 6	2,649 8 0	2,054 0 6
	Malikana ...	383 11 9	776 7 0	392 11 3
	Cesses ...	270 4 9	353 4 3	82 15 6
	Owners' rate ...	72 10 0	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Total ...	1,322 2 0	3,779 3 3	2,457 1 3
	Total of the Jhang District.	20,603 10 2	74,121 3 6	53,517 9 4

6. Tables A and B show the results of the assessment on *nahri* flow land, which is the most important consideration. For this class I recommended an all round rate of Rs. 3. In the orders of Government nothing was said upon the subject of this proposal, which I therefore took to have been approved. The final rate now appears as Rs. 3-0-7 for Colony mauzas. I made no attempt to reduce this slight excess. The system of differentiation was more minute than in previous circles: and the rates themselves were so moderate that it was unnecessary to revise the assessment in order to remove what is really a negligible defect.

7. I may here explain briefly the divergencies in the different circle rates, which appear in the last paragraph—Dangali is highest—(Rs. 3-4-1). Here grantees are mostly large holders on camel terms together with some capitalists. There are some admirable *abadis*, and soil is of unusual excellence. True, the distributary has been lately fitted with Kennedy's modules, and the people complain of shortages in supply: what has really been done is to equalize distribution on a scientific basis, taking into consideration the high level of the water table in this region and its proximity to the Ravi *Khadir*. In any case Rs. 3 4-1 is in itself anything but a high rate and the Dangali grantees ought to be, and in fact are, quite satisfied.

8. Nahra comes next—(Rs. 3-3-4). Soil is uneven as to command and slightly inferior to Dangali, but there are many low-lying tracts and depressions, which yield crops of the first quality. The water-supply is good and in Nankana the inhabitants of the circle have a very convenient market. Grantees are a motley crew, mostly Awans, Sayads, Koreshis and Pathans from Mianwali, with a leavening of Sialkotis. Here too the rate is by no means high and the assessment gave general satisfaction.

9. The Nupewala Extension only comprises 4 mauzas, allotted to Janglis and for the most part well to do. The rate (Rs. 3-1-5) is moderate enough.

10. Bahlak is the largest circle, divided geographically into two distinct portions. The mauzas on the head reaches are mostly prosperous, soil being generally good. The lower tract is noticeably inferior here; the *kallar* evil is so prevalent that auxiliary pipes have been supplied to a number of villages with a view to its elimination. These naturally adverse conditions are enhanced by the unsatisfactory character of the grantees, whose original homes are near enough to prevent permanent Settlement. However, even here there has been improvement of late and Rs. 3-0-11 is by no means too high for the extension as a whole.

11. The Killianwala tract is a compact and level block of villages, very similar in quality and constitution, except at the extreme tail. Grantees are all Janglis, who, however, received very small allotments. This has been a serious drawback to its development. Markets are also rather remote. Nevertheless, Rs. 2-15-11 as a circle rate probably errs on the side of leniency.

12. The least prosperous region is the Bhangu Extension. Soil is generally inferior, though there are good areas. *Rappar* flats interspersed among sandhills occur frequently. Even with ample grants and a large admixture of Jats and Arains from Gujrat, Lahore, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur progress is slow. The main body of colonists are Jhang Hitharis, whose old homes are close by and form an irresistible attraction. The *abadis* are mostly occupied by tenants. Water-supply has much improved of late, and the rate (Rs. 2-13-6), which will not be imposed till *Kharif* 1915, adequately meets the situation. I was at special pains to secure proper differentiation, here, in fact the uneven quality of the country demanded unusual attention, for depressions (locally known as *budhs*) containing the very highest class of soil sometimes lay alongside the most unpromising lands.

13. Three Colony chaks (321, 372, and Kuhl Gugera Branch) are recent foundations, which may eventually develop into high class villages, but at present deserve every consideration. Mauzas No. 475, 476 and 506 belong to Jhang Branch III Circle, but were not ready for assessment when that circle was taken up by Captain Ferrar. They are very backward and insignificant. In regard to the date of imposition of the new demand I class them with the Bhangu Branch.

14. I have now to explain the rate for the proprietary mauzas Rs. 2-9-3. The *nahri* area assessed in 1912-13 in these 58 mauzas was only 20,302 acres, which is small enough compared with the 106,627 acres of the Colony chaks. Only 34 of the mauzas receive canal irrigation and the permissible area, generally 75 per cent, is here only 50 per cent. The grounds for this decision, I described in my No. 120, dated 4th June 1913, to your address a desire to give preferential treatment to Crown waste, which admitted of closer Settlement and a reluctance to place too liberal a supply of water at the disposal of cultivators without experience in the use of it. I may now add another, the fact that these mauzas were already provided with means of irrigation other than Canals. Still prior to the advent of the canal, they were ill-conditioned mauzas, sparsely peopled and of little consequence. They owe their present improved circumstances to the canal quite as much as

Colony mauzas, from which they are now hardly distinguishable. There is, however, one important difference. The schedule of occupiers' rates applicable to the Colony mauzas is that dated 6th January 1892 (Irrigation Branch Notification 32, I). The proprietary mauzas are charged for water according to a different schedule, that of 30th June 1903, and their rates range 8 annas per acre higher than those of the other schedule. I had forgotten this important point when I made my proposals for the assessment of this circle, or I would have proposed a special reduction of 8 annas in the land revenue rates for these mauzas. I have now made this reduction or rather a reduction of Re. 0-6-9 and request the sanction of Government to the course I have taken. It is hardly necessary to justify this action at any length. Government is aware that the *zamindar* receives a consolidated account for Government dues, which he pays in a lump sum. He does not trouble to consider the items—occupiers' rate, land revenue and cesses, separately. It is therefore clearly incumbent upon the assessing officer to correct an extra charge of this sort under the head of occupiers' rate by a corresponding reduction in the land revenue. It will be remembered that at the begining of these Settlement operations it was proposed to increase the Colony schedule by 8 annas so as to bring it into line with the other schedule, but the Government of India ruled that resettlement was not a fit occasion for a rise in water rates in addition to land revenue. That is the explanation of the rate for proprietary mauzas: I sought to mark the difference in the schedules by a substantial reduction in land revenue. It was not necessary that the amount of the reduction should be precisely 8 annas. The proprietary mauzas have good soil and were spared much of the outlay in labour and money, which was required to establish the Colony mauzas: but to ignore the difference in schedules altogether would have inflicted upon them a serious and undeserved injury.

15. In the following tables I give the areas matured in acres under different classes of cultivation, together with the assessment thereon :—

TABLE E.

Abstract showing new Land Revenue by Classes of Cultivation for Jhang District.

Name of Tahsil.	Class of cultivation.	Area assessed.	New Land Revenue. Rs. A. P.
Shorkot	Nahri	18,378	52,235 12 0
	Nahri Jhallari	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Chahi	9	11 4 0
	Sailab	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Abi	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Barani	11	8 4 0
	Total ...	18,398	52,255 4 0
Jhang	Nahri	1,160	2,607 0 0
	Nahri Jhallari	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Chahi	34	42 8 0
	Sailab	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Abi	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Barani	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Total ...	1,194	2,649 8 0
	Total of the Jhang District ...	195 92	54,904 12 0

TABLE F.

Abstract showing New Demand by Classes of Cultivation for Lyallpur District.

Name of Tahsil.	Class of cultivation.	Area.	Demand.
			Rs. A. P.
Jaranwala	Nahri	34,131	1,07,265 12 0
	Nahri Jhallari	787	1,542 8 0
	Sailab	2,722	2,722 0 0
	Barani	660	495 0 0
	Chahi	941	1,176 4 0
	Abi	593	444 12 0
	Total ...	39,834	1,13,646 4 0
Samundri	Nahri	70,646	2,07,047 8 0
	Nahri Jhallari	101	157 12 0
	Chahi	2,052	2,565 0 0
	Sailab	1,951	1,951 0 0
	Barani	59	44 0 0
	Abi	573	429 12 0
	Total ...	75,382	2,12,195 4 0
Toba Tek Singh	Nahri	2,614	7,200 0 0
	Nahri Jhallari	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Chahi	266	322 8 0
	Sailab	143	143 0 0
	Barani	2	1 8 0
	Abi	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
	Total ...	3,025	7,677 0 0
	Total of the District ...	118,241	3,33,518 8 0

One of the most interesting features in these returns is the large *Chahi* area. There has been a distinct movement of late along the Ravi to supplement canal irrigation especially when supply is short, by the erection of new wells or the repair of old ones, and care has been taken to allow the full benefit of all the concessions provided by Government as rewards for enterprize of this kind. Abi cultivation is also considerable: this is irrigation by lift either from the Degh Nala or the pools and depressions near the river bed. *Sailab* cultivation occurs where the river floods on receding leave large expanses of soil which retain moisture long enough to produce a *Rabi* crop. The *Nahri Jhallari* cultivation is mostly on the Dangali Distributary, where the fine quality of the soil makes it a profitable venture. One Mauza, No. 635, is entirely *Jhallari*.

16. It is satisfactory, after recent experiences on the Rakh Branch, to be able to report that the assessment was generally popular: in fact its terms were often the subject of favourable comment. There were 162 objections, none of which I accepted: these indicate, not reasonable grievances, but only the natural tendency of the zamindar to leave no stone unturned in the pursuit of his private advantage.

In accordance with the principles laid down at the Simla Conference of 1910 and approved by Government, *Kharaba* was abolished with effect from *Rabi* 1912. The new assessment is as a rule on sown areas. Mauzas with an inadequate water-supply retain *Kharaba*, the decision in each case resting with the Settlement Officer, Deputy Commissioner and Executive Engineer in consultation. Certain other mauzas, in fact a considerable number have been recommended for the lower schedule of occupiers' rates, inferiority of soil and consequent reduction in profits being the determining factor.

If these considerations, added to the wide range in the classification of rates, which extend from Re. 1-8-0 to Rs. 4 and the liberality with which they were differentiated by squares within villages, be taken into consideration the moderation of the assessment will hardly be disputed.

17. The enclosures to this letter comprise—

(1) detailed village assessment statements for all the mauzas.

(2) an abstract return compiled therefrom, showing areas allotted and assessed total and revenue, *malikana* and cesses paid before and after the new assessment, the increase and decrease under these heads and the net results of the whole. From this abstract the figures given in the body of this letter are taken.

These figures represent the results of the assessment in one particular year only, and their essential feature is that they must of necessity be approximate, since the assessment is fluctuating. The efficiency of the canal is an inconstant factor and its vagaries of course influence cultivation statistics year by year very considerably. The best therefore that can be said for the accuracy of the figures herewith submitted is that they represent the annual demand in a favourable year.

18. I request that you will now be good enough to sanction the new demand under the heads land revenue, *malikana* and cesses. The figures shown separately for the Lyallpur and Jhang Districts are as follows :—

	Jhang.			*Lyallpur.*		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Land revenue	54,904	12	0	3,33,518	8	0
Malikana	11,895	13	6	46,869	4	6
Cesses	7,320	10	0	44,469	2	3

ENCLOSURE 3.

(*i*) *List of Mauzas, Lyallpur District.*

Name of Area.	Detail of Mauzas.	Branch.
Killianwala Extension ...	540—558, inclusive	Gugera Branch.
Nupewala " ...	580, 581, 584, 585	Do.
Nahra " ...	559—571, 586—588, inclusive	Do.
Bahlak " ...	592—623, inclusive	Do.
Miscellaneous Extension ...	321, 372, Kuhl	Do.
" " ...	405	Jhang Branch.
Dangali ...	624—633, inclusive 582, 583, 635 ...	Gugera Branch.
Proprietary Mauzas ...	Maryala, Lundianwala, Pindi Isa, Harchoke, Kanal, Danabad, Khai, Dikadi Alam Shah, Killianwala, Garh, Kot Satti, Dikadi Mehr Shahana, Dikadi Killianwala, Jalli Tarana, Mehr Shahana, Alam Shah Khagga, Pindi Sheikh Musa, Asalatwala, Shiraza, Neka Vasli, Shadi Jalli Fatiana, Hissoke, Haveli Shah Din Shah, Sial, Dudhera, Thatta Beg, Kur, Saike, Sarwarke Daduke, Kamoke, Jhamra, Chura Bhojia, Bohatwala Baddhe, Chahanmana, Chak Dulchia, Chak Lundianwala, Jodhke, Saidpura, Rangpura, Tibbi Jattuan, Nurpura, Wan Raja Dallu, Pipalwala, Kund Neka Vasli, Chak Khurd Neka Vasli, Chak Kalan Neka Vasli, Samundarwala, Jangal Sarkar, Jauri, Boharwala, Thera Mangueja, Inait Shah, Lal Isan, Sultan Mahmudwala.	Do.

(ii) List of Mauzas, Jhang District.

Name of Area.	Detail of Mauzas.	Branch.
Bhangu Branch ...	475—504, inclusive and 506	Jhang Branch.

No. 7506, dated Lahore, 2nd November 1914.

From—MILES IRVING, Esquire, Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioners, Punjab,

To—The Commissioner, Multan Division.

The Hon'ble Sir M. W. FENTON, K.C.S.I.

Sub-head. 91.
File No. 660.

IN reply to your letter No. 4520, dated the 8th September 1914, regarding the results of the recent assessment of the remaining areas of the Chenab Colony, I am directed to say that the sanction of the Financial Commissioner contemplated by section 50 (2) of the Land Revenue Act was communicated to Mr. Dobson's proposed method of assessment in Mr. Smith's letter No. 490-S., dated the 26th September 1913. The results now reported do not appear to the Financial Commissioner to involve any material deviation from the method of assessment so sanctioned. Mr. Dobson appears to have exercised a wise discretion in adjusting his demand to local conditions. The operations now concluded in these extensions and proprietary villages should of course receive separate notice in Mr. Dobson's Final Settlement Report of the district.

2. With reference to paragraphs 17 and 18 of Mr. Dobson's report I am to say that you should take action as required by paragraph 522 of the Settlement Manual.

No. 5835, dated Multan, 17th November 1914.

From—C. J. HALLIFAX, Esquire, I.C.S., Commissioner, Multan Division,

To—The Settlement Officer, Lyallpur.

WITH reference to your letter No. 172, dated 3rd August 1914, I have the honour to sanction the new assessment of the villages of the Chenab Colony therein reported upon as follows :—

—	Jhang.	Lyallpur.	Total.
	Rs. A. P	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Land Revenue	54,904 13 0	3,33,518 8 0	3,88,423 4 0
Malikana	11,895 13 6	46,869 4 6	58,765 2 0
Cesses	7,320 10 0	44,469 2 3	51,789 12 3

2. The detailed village assessment statements and their abstract (enclosures Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of your letter under reply) are returned herewith in original.

No. 5836.

COPY of this office letter No. 5835, dated 17th November 1914, forwarded to Miles Irving, Esquire, I.C.S., Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioners, Punjab, for information, with reference to paragraph 2 of his letter No. 7506, dated 2nd November 1914.

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NEW SERIES No. 29.

SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS

OF THE OFFICE OF THE

FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS, PUNJAB.

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No. 54.

CONTENTS.

No. LXXXIII.—Assessment of certain colony villages on the Dangali and other extensions and of certain proprietary villages on the Lower Chenab Canal.

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